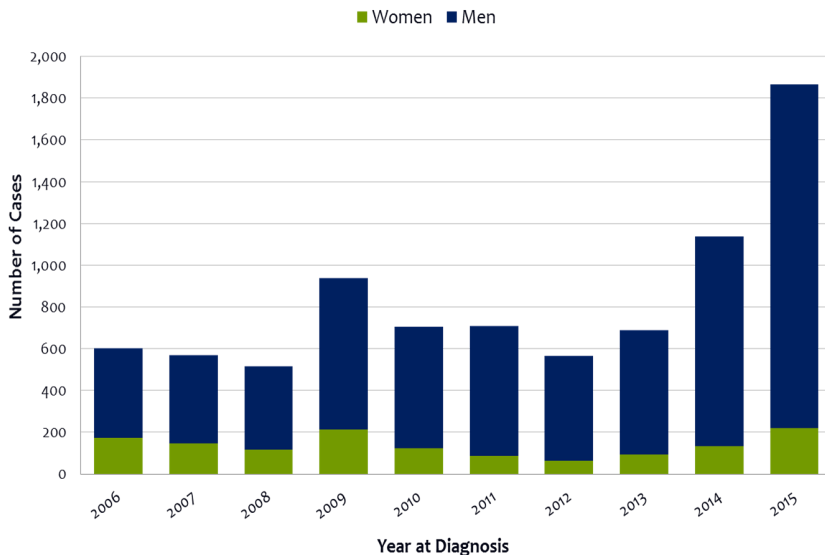


Syphilis Infections in North Carolina

Reported Syphilis Case Data, 2015

Reported syphilis infections have increased rapidly over the past few years.

Syphilis Infections by Gender and Diagnosed Year 2006-2015



In 2015:

- 1,866 early syphilis (primary, secondary, and early latent) infections were diagnosed in North Carolina. This is a 64% increase from 2014, where only 1,137 early syphilis infections reported.
- Severe clinical outcomes are being seen (see page 2).

Want More Information?

HIV/STD Facts and Figures website:
<http://epi.publichealth.nc.gov/cd/stds/figures.html>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Fact Sheet on Syphilis:
<http://www.cdc.gov/std/syphilis/stdfact-syphilis.htm>

Contact Us

North Carolina DHHS Communicable Disease Branch

Phone:
(919) 733-3419

Mailing Address:
Communicable Disease Branch
Epidemiology Section
1902 Mail Service Center
Raleigh NC 27699-1902

State of North Carolina •
Pat McCrory, Governor
Department of Health and Human Services •
Richard O. Brajer, Secretary
Division of Public Health •
Randall W. Williams, M.D.,
State Health Director
HIV/STD Surveillance Unit •
Erika Samoff, MPH, PhD

www.ncdhs.gov •
www.publichealth.nc.gov

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Syphilis is increasing in many different groups. The majority of cases are among men, many of whom have HIV.



59% of new infections in men were in young men (30 years or younger)



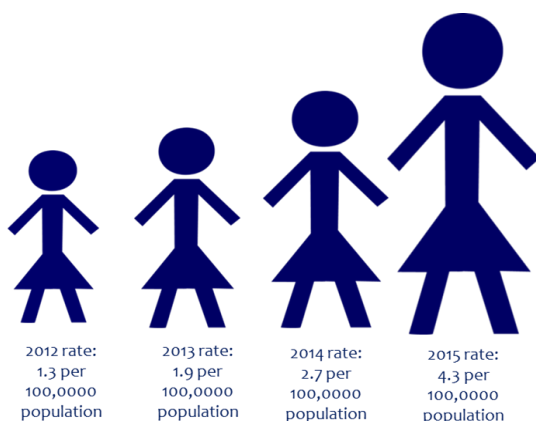
54% of new infections were among Black/African American men



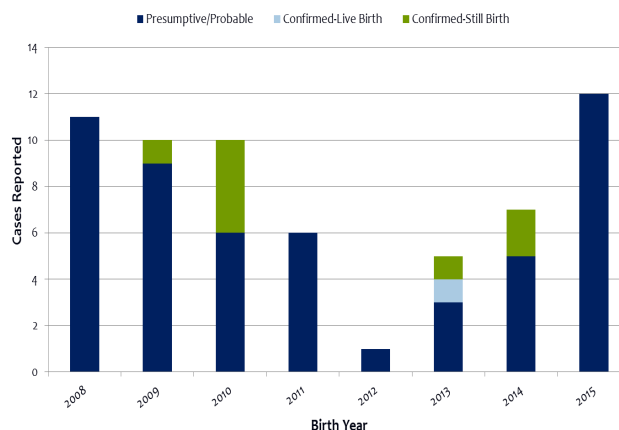
49% of infections in men were in men with HIV

Syphilis among women and infants (congenital syphilis) is increasing.

Syphilis Rates among Women, 2012-2015



Congenital Syphilis Cases by Birth Year 2008-2015



Syphilis Infections in North Carolina

Reported Syphilis Case Data, 2015

Severe Outcomes of Untreated Syphilis

- There has been an increase in reported ocular syphilis cases, including cases resulting in severe or complete vision loss (42 cases in 2015, up from 21 in 2014)
- There has also been an increase in infants diagnosed with congenital syphilis, which can lead to birth defects and stillbirths (12 cases in 2015, up from 7 in 2014)

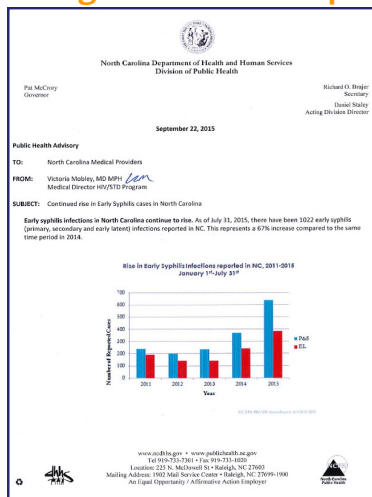
What CLINICIANS can do

- If you see patients who are sexually active and have visual changes or complaints, test for syphilis and refer patient for immediate ophthalmologic evaluation.
- Ensure that ALL pregnant women receive full syphilis screening (first prenatal visit, between 28-30 weeks gestation, and at delivery).
 - ◊ Many babies with congenital syphilis in 2015 and 2016 were born to mothers who received some, but not all, of the recommended screening tests.
 - ◊ Testing for syphilis during first and third trimesters allows the mother to be treated prior to birth and can prevent congenital syphilis
 - ◊ Testing at delivery ensures that all potential congenital syphilis infections are identified and treated appropriately.
- Screen syphilis patients for other sexually transmitted diseases including HIV.

What is North Carolina doing to decrease syphilis infections?

- Program alerts are sent out to medical providers as new information is available.
- State and local health departments are collaborating to increase local awareness and train local providers.
- More information about testing for syphilis, especially among pregnant women can be accessed at: [North Carolina testing](#)

Program Alert Example



What YOU can do

- If you are sexually active make sure your care provider is offering you regular screening for all STDs.
- If you have had change in your vision and are sexually active, mention syphilis to your clinician.
- If you are diagnosed with syphilis, notify your sexual partners of the need to seek testing and treatment.

Recommendations from the CDC 2015 STD Treatment Guidelines:

- Penicillin G is the preferred drug for treating people in all stages of syphilis.
- If allergic to penicillin, non-pregnant patients can be treated with doxycycline, while pregnant women must be desensitized to and then treated with penicillin.
- Preparation, dose, and length of treatment depends on the stage and clinical manifestations of syphilis.
- People with HIV and primary or secondary syphilis should be evaluated for treatment failure at 3, 6, 9, 12, and 24 months after treatment.

Data Source:
North Carolina Electronic Disease Surveillance System (NC EDSS) (data as of June 1, 2016).